REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-18, 20-21, and 23 are pending. By this Amendment, the Abstract, the specification, and claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-18, 20-21, and 23 are amended, and claims 5, 10, 19, and 22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, for the reasons set forth below, claim 11 has not been rewritten in independent form at this time.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7, 10, and 12-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schwank, U.S. Patent No. 4,083,355. The features of claim 5 have been added to independent claim 1; the features of claim 10 have been added to independent claims 1, 17, 18, and 21; the features of claim 19 have been added to independent claim 18; claim 23 has been amended to depend from independent claim 1; and claims 5, 10, 19, and 22 have been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it applies to claims 1-4, 6-7, 12-18, 20-21, and 23.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a supporting part that supports the cutoff plate to be in close contact with the burner mat, wherein a plurality of openings is provided in a side

surface of the supporting part such that the mixed gas moves through the plurality of openings in the burner chamber. Independent claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, a supporting part that maintains a state in which the cutoff plate is in close contact with the burner mat, wherein a plurality of openings is provided in a side surface of the supporting part such that the mixed gas moves through the plurality of openings in the burner chamber. Independent claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, a supporting part connected to the cutoff plate having a plurality of seating steps that seats the circumference of each of the respective burner mats, wherein a plurality of openings is provided between the supporting part and a bottom surface of an inside of the burner chamber such that the mixed gas moves through the plurality of openings in the burner chamber. Independent claim 21 recites, *inter alia*, a supporting part that maintains a state in which the cutoff plate is in close contact with the burner mat, wherein a plurality of openings is provided in a side surface of the supporting part such that the mixed gas moves through the plurality of openings in the burner chamber. Schwank does not disclose or suggest at least such claimed features of independent claims 1, 17-18, and 21, or the respective claimed combinations.

That is, the Examiner corresponds element 33 (disclosed by Schwank as a burner chamber and/or chamber wall) to the claimed supporting part and element 36a (disclosed by Schwank as an elbow) to the claimed plurality of openings of independent claim 1. However, Schwank discloses a gas range including two concentric burner chambers 32 and 33 and a ceramic burner plate 31 covering the burner chambers 32 and 33. See Fig. 3 of Schwank and the corresponding disclosure. The ceramic burner plate 31 includes a perforated inner circular

portion 31a and a perforated outer annular portion 31b covering the respective burner chambers 33 and 32, and a non-perforated annular portion 31c that separates the perforated inner circular portion 31a and the perforated outer annular portion 31b. An underside of the non-perforated annular portion 31c is in engagement with an upper edge of a wall of the chamber 33 via a sealing ring 33b. Further, Schwank discloses that each of the burner chambers 32 and 33 is provided with its own respective Venturi-tubes 35 and 36, which are provided with respective gas connections 39 and 40, nozzles 37 and 38, and suction openings 41 and 42 for combustion air. Furthermore, Schwank discloses that if the Venturi-tubes 35 and 36 are arranged in parallel, the Venturi-tube 36 must be connected with the inner burner chamber 33 via an elbow 36a. See, for example, Figs. 3, 4, and column 3, line-63-column 4, line 11 of Schwank.

It is respectfully submitted that the wall of the chamber 33 with the sealing ring 33b provides a partition between the burner chambers 32 and 33 that separates the burner chambers 32 and 33 from each other, and there are no openings connecting the burner chambers 32 and 33 through which gas can pass, so that each of the burner chambers 32 and 33 operates independently and has separate respective Venturi-tubes 35 and 36 to supply the gas thereto. Further, Schwank's elbow 36a is provided in the inner burner chamber 33 and is connected to the Venturi-tube 36 that supplies gas to the burner chamber 33. In contrast, the claimed supporting part of independent claim 1 is provided with the plurality of openings in the side surface of the supporting part such that the mixed gas moves through the plurality of openings in the burner chamber. Thus, Schwank's burner chamber and/or chamber wall 33 and the

the elbow 36a do not correspond to the claimed supporting part and the plurality of openings of independent claim 1, respectively.

Further, Schwank does not disclose or suggest the claimed features of a supporting part connected to the cutoff plate having a plurality of seating steps that seats the circumference of each of the respective burner mats, wherein a plurality of openings is provided between the supporting part and a bottom surface of an inside of the burner chamber such that the mixed gas moves through the plurality of openings in the burner chamber, as recited in independent claim 18.

Independent claims 17 and 21 recite features similar to independent claim 1, and therefore, are allowable over Schwank for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1, 17-18, and 21 over Schwank should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, 12-16, 20, and 23, as well as objected to claim 11, are allowable over Schwank at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 18, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwank. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 8-9 are allowable over Schwank at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they ultimately depend, as well as for their added features. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Carol L. Druzbick, Esq.
Registration No. 40,287

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195
703 766-3777 CLD:gs/pb
Date: October 28, 2011
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
Q:\Documents\2016\2016-1023\300887.doc